

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,253,193 to Ginter et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claimed features are not disclosed in the Ginter et al. Specifically, the Ginter et al. reference fails to disclose a content usage control system which encrypts the license and the content decode key by the ID information of the user unit's physical elements, "through which the license information is passed in sequence until the content is decoded by use of the content decode key," as defined in independent Claims 1 and 7. Nor does the Ginter et al. reference disclose a content usage apparatus, a computer readable recording medium, a program of a content usage apparatus or a content usage method, as defined in independent Claims 8-11, in which the license information is decoded based on the ID information of the physical elements of the user unit "when the license information is passed to each of the physical elements in sequence."

In contrast, the Ginter et al. reference only discloses that permissions (control) information is encrypted (col. 13, lines 54-62; col. 14, lines 31-36), but it does not disclose encrypting and decoding the permissions information by passing it to the ID information of each of the physical elements of the user unit, in sequence, until the content is decoded by the content decode key. Accordingly, as all of the features of independent Claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 are not disclosed in the Ginter et al. reference, Applicants respectfully requests the withdrawal of this §102(e) rejection of these claims.

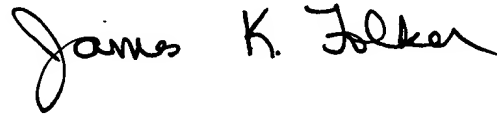
Claims 2-6 all depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1, and therefore include all of the features of Claim 1, plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the §103(e) rejection of dependent Claims 2-6 under the Ginter et al. reference be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to independent Claim 1.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By



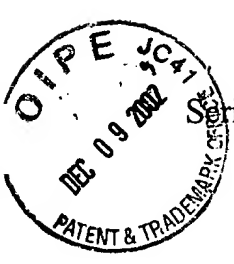
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 1-4 and 6-11 have been amended, and new Claims 12-15 have been added as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A content usage control system which controls the usage of content supplied by an authorized information supplier including a content producer who is also ~~the~~ an information producer and those persons authorized by the information producer, said system comprising:

a user unit which enables ~~the~~ a user to use the content;

a setting unit which sets a license as a structure expressed by a combination of logic sums and logic products of a plurality of partial licenses for the content based on ~~the~~ ID information of ~~the~~ physical elements of said user unit including ~~the~~ media used in said user unit and ~~the~~ ID information of the user; and

a usage control unit which controls the usage of the content by said user unit ~~based on the license set by said setting unit.~~ by using license information encrypted, at the request of the user unit intending to use the content, from the license set by said setting unit and a content decode key by the ID information of the physical elements through which the license information is passed in sequence until the content is decoded by use of the content decode key.

2. (Once Amended) The content usage control system according to claim 1, wherein the partial licenses set by said setting unit include ~~the~~ an accounting

condition constituting the condition for a category changing with ~~the~~ a usage state of said user unit and the user.

3. (Once Amended) The content usage control system according to claim 1, ~~in which said usage control unit includes a unit for producing, at the request of the user unit to use the content, the license information encrypted from the license and the content decode key by the ID information of a plurality of physical elements of said user unit including the media used in said user unit,~~

in which said user unit decodes the license information sent in accordance with the content usage request, based on the ID information of the physical elements of the user unit when the license information is passed to each of the physical elements in sequence, due to said user unit, and in the case where the license conditions are satisfied, the encrypted content ~~are~~ is decoded by use of the content decode key.

4. (Once Amended) The content usage control system according to claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said ~~production usage control~~ usage control unit encrypts by multiplexing the ID information of the physical elements corresponding to the partial licenses of the license in the case where ~~the~~ an interface of the partial licenses is described by the logic product.

6. (Once Amended) The content usage control system according to claim 1, further comprising a content server which holds the content encrypted by the

authorized information supplier ~~unit~~ on an open network, and sends the encrypted content to said user unit upon receipt of a request to distribute the content from said user unit.

7. (Once Amended) A content usage control system which controls the usage of ~~the~~ content supplied by ~~the~~ an authorized information supplier including a content producer who is also ~~the~~ an information producer and ~~the~~ persons authorized by the information producer, said system comprising:

a user unit which requests ~~the~~ usage of the content, and ~~decodes~~ ing the encrypted content using ~~the~~ a content decode key in the case of satisfying ~~the~~ license conditions obtained by decoding ~~the~~ license-request information sent in accordance with ~~the~~ a content usage request, based on ~~the~~ ID information of ~~the~~ physical elements of the user unit when the license information is passed to each of the physical elements in sequence;

a setting unit which sets a license expressed as a structure by a combination of logic sums and logic products of a plurality of partial licenses for the content based on the ID information ~~for~~ of the physical elements of said user unit including ~~the~~ media used in said user unit and ~~the~~ ID information for the user;

a conditions storage unit which stores the license conditions set by said setting unit;

a holding unit which holds said content decode key;

an extraction unit which receives the content usage request from said user unit and extracts the license conditions and said content decode key corresponding to said user unit; and

a production unit which produces the license information by encrypting the license conditions and said content decode key based on the ID information of the physical elements ~~sent from said user unit~~ through which the license information is passed in sequence until the content is decoded by use of the content decode key and sends the license information to said user unit.

8. (Once Amended) A content usage apparatus connected to a network for enabling ~~the~~ a user to use the content, said apparatus comprising:

a request unit which transmits ~~an~~ ID information of ~~the~~ physical elements of said content usage apparatus and ~~an~~ ID information of the user to an external content management apparatus which manages the content in response to ~~the~~ a content usage request;

a unit which decodes ~~the~~ license information transmitted by said content management apparatus in response to the content usage request, using the ID information of the physical elements of said content usage apparatus ~~in response to the content usage request~~, when the license information is passed to each of the physical elements in sequence, and determines ~~the~~ license conditions and ~~the~~ a content decode key; and

a unit which decodes the content using the content decode key when permitted upon determination of that the license has been obtained.

9. (Once Amended) A computer readable recording medium which stores a program executed by ~~the~~ a computer of ~~the~~ a content usage apparatus connected to a network for enabling ~~the~~ a user to use the content, said program being intended to perform ~~the~~ operations comprising the steps of:

transmitting ~~an~~ ID information of ~~the~~ physical elements of said content usage apparatus and ~~an~~ ID information of ~~the~~ a user to an external content management apparatus which manages the content in accordance with a content usage request;

determining ~~the~~ license conditions and a content decode key by decoding ~~the~~ license information transmitted by said external content management apparatus in response to the content usage request, using the ID information of the physical elements of said content usage apparatus when the license information is passed to each of the physical elements in sequence; and

decoding the content using the content decode key when permitted upon determination of the license conditions.

10. (Once Amended) A content usage apparatus enabling ~~the~~ a user to use the content, said apparatus comprising:

a unit which determines, in response to a content usage request, ~~a~~ license conditions and a content decode key by decoding ~~a~~-license information for the content based on ~~an~~-ID information of ~~the~~-physical elements of said content usage apparatus when the license information is passed to each of the physical elements in sequence ~~in response to the content usage request;~~ and

a unit which decodes the content by use of the content decode key when permitted upon ~~determination~~ satisfaction of the license conditions determined.

11. (Once Amended) A computer readable recording medium which stores a program executed by a ~~the~~-computer of ~~the~~-a content usage apparatus for enabling ~~the~~-a user to use the content, said program being intended to perform the operations comprising the steps of:

determining, in response to a content usage request, license conditions and a content decode key by decoding ~~the~~-license information of the content based on ~~an~~-ID information of ~~the~~ physical elements of said content usage apparatus when the license information is passed to each of the physical elements in sequence ~~in response to the content usage request;~~ and

decoding the content using the content decode key when permitted upon determination of the license conditions.

12. (New Claim) A program executed by a computer of a content usage apparatus connected to a network for enabling a user to use the content, said program being intended to perform operations comprising the steps of:

transmitting ID information of physical elements of said content usage apparatus and ID information of the user to an external content management apparatus which manages the content in accordance with a content usage request;

determining license conditions and a content decode key by decoding license information transmitted by said external content management apparatus in response to the content usage request, using the ID information of the physical elements of said content usage apparatus when the license information is passed to each of the physical elements in sequence; and

decoding the content using the content decode key when permitted upon determination of the license conditions.

13. (New Claim) A content usage method employed on a content usage apparatus connected to a network for enabling a user to use the content, said method comprising:

transmitting ID information of physical elements of said content usage apparatus and ID information of the user to an external content management apparatus which manages the content in accordance with a content usage request;

determining license conditions and a content decode key by decoding license information transmitted by said external content management apparatus

in response to the content usage request, using the ID information of the physical elements of said content usage apparatus when the license information is passed to each of the physical elements in sequence; and

decoding the content using the content decode key when permitted upon determination of the license conditions.

14. (New Claim) A program executed by a computer of a content usage apparatus for enabling a user to use the content, said program being intended to perform operations comprising the steps of:

determining, in response to a content usage request, license conditions and a content decode key by decoding license information of the content based on ID information of physical elements of said content usage apparatus when the license information is passed to each of the physical elements in sequence; and

decoding the content using the content decode key when permitted upon determination of the license conditions.

15. (New Claim) A content usage method employed on a content usage apparatus for enabling a user to use the content, said method comprising:

determining, in response to a content usage request, license conditions and a content decode key by decoding license information of the content based on ID information of physical elements of said content usage apparatus when the license information is passed to each of the physical elements in sequence; and

decoding the content using the content decode key when permitted
upon determination of the license conditions.